

Proposal 2 to send to examiner

Interview Summary
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U.S.S.N. 09/714,602

Filed: November 16, 2000

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

In the Claims

Claims 1-2 (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 57 further comprising after step (a),
removing auxotrophs from the plurality of mutant microorganisms.

Claims 4-56 (canceled)

57. (currently amended) A method for identifying a mutant microorganism having a reduced adaptation to a particular environment comprising the steps of

including (a) providing a plurality of mutant microorganisms wherein each ^{mutant} microorganism contains *an* ~~an~~ ^{an} *insertional mutation which incorporates* a different marker sequence; *in a gene*

(b) introducing the plurality of mutants of step (a) into the said particular environment and allowing those microorganisms which are able to do so to grow in the said environment;

(c) retrieving microorganisms from the said environment or a selected part thereof; and

(d) selecting an individual mutant having a reduced capacity to proliferate in the particular environment by comparing ~~any~~ marker sequences, if any, in the nucleic acid present in the retrieved microorganisms in step (c) to the different marker sequences referred to in step (a).

58. (previously presented) The method of Claim 57 for identifying a gene which allows a microorganism to adapt to a particular environment further comprising the step:

(e) identifying the gene which is mutated in the individual mutant having a reduced capacity to proliferate in the particular environment.